

**HEALTH AND MENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2019  
4:00 P.M.**

PRESENT: James D. O'Donnell, Chairman  
Michael Amo, Mike Anagnostakis, Kevindaryán Luján, Janet Sutherland,  
Laurie R. Tautel, Peter V. Tuohy

ALSO

PRESENT: L. Stephen Brescia, Chairman  
Katie Bonelli, Majority Leader  
Rob Sassi, Legislator  
Antoinette Reed, Legislative Counsel  
Harry Porr, Acting County Executive  
Dan Bloomer, Director, Operations and Cost Control  
Darcie Miller, Commissioner of Social Services and Mental Health  
Todd Craner, Fiscal Director, Department of Social Services  
Irina Gelman M.D., Commissioner of Health  
Christopher Ericson, Deputy Commissioner of Health  
Michael Ventre, Deputy Commissioner of Health  
Jacki DeChiara, Director of Operations, Orange County Morgue  
Darcie Miller, Commissioner of Social Services and Mental Health  
Laurence LaDue, Commissioner, Valley View Center  
Donna Strecker, Director of Finance, Valley View Center  
Karin Hallow, Commissioner of Finance  
Kerry Gallagher, Deputy Commissioner of Finance  
Colleen Grogan, Chief Budget Analyst  
Gretchen Riordan, Budget Analyst

Mr. O'Donnell opened the committee meeting at 4:00 p.m. and asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. All committee members were present.

Ms. Tautel moved request to accept and appropriate NYS Office of Children and Family Services funding from the Department of Social Services for Child Abuse or Neglect Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act of 2016 (CARA) funds to improve response to families and infants affected by substance use disorders (both alcohol and drugs), \$90,000.00, seconded by Ms. Sutherland.

Motion carried 6-1 with Legislators Amo, Anagnostakis, Sutherland, Tautel, Tuohy and O'Donnell voting in favor and Legislator Luján abstaining.

Mr. Tuohy moved request to accept and appropriate New York State Department of Health funding from the Department of Health for Crisis Hotline to establish and improve linkages to care, \$45,000.00, seconded by Ms. Tautel.

Ms. Miller explained that discussions were held between herself, Dr. Gelman and Deputy Commissioner Christopher Ericson on how to improve access to care for individuals with opioid addiction with this funding going to help cover some of the additional costs for the call center.

Mr. Tuohy expressed his appreciation in the collaborated effort.

Ms. Miller replied that they were very excited, and the official grand opening would be on April 1, 2019.

Ms. Tautel asked to receive information on the hotline in both English and Spanish. Ms. Miller replied that the marketing committee is working on the material and once compiled, it would be distributed.

Mr. Sassi asked how this would be promoted as a county. Ms. Miller replied that the marketing committee brings together all the stakeholders as well as representatives from the Department of Mental Health. They are currently compiling a list on how it would be marketed, and she would share that with the legislature once it is completed but if they have additional suggestions, they would accept those as well. In addition, the Mental Health Association will have funds to purchase materials for the marketing effort.

Mr. Sassi emphasized the need for it to be expedient and catchy.

Ms. Miller agreed, and they are working with Commissioner Brendan Casey of the Department of Emergency Services and his staff on the approval of a three-digit number.

Mr. Luján asked if the three-digit number would be in place for the roll out on April 1, 2019. Ms. Miller replied that currently they have the 1-800-832-1200 (Help Line), the mobile mental health number which will be linked to the help line and they continue to contract with 211 with all being transferred back to the call center. While she would like to say that the decision on the three-digit number would be made by April 1, 2019; however, she does not see that happening.

Ms. Tautel commented that the information should be distributed to both the middle and high schools and a possible presentation be made.

Ms. Miller agreed, and Text 4 Teens would be going full-time.

Mr. Tuohy commented that as part of the franchise agreements with cable companies they are to provide community access channels that could be of assistance.

Ms. Miller replied that she would share that with the marketing committee.

Mr. Luján added that a resource guide for law enforcement would be helpful. In Dutchess County they produced a small laminated crisis list card that law enforcement officers kept in their possession. In his observation a template should be made available to various departments; however, it would be most useful to law enforcement and first responders.

Ms. Miller agreed, they have asked for one number and they will ensure that they have a full supply to handout.

Mr. Tuohy asked that the cards be provided to Legislators.

Motion carried 6-1 with Legislators  
Amo, Anagnostakis, Sutherland,  
Tautel, Tuohy and O'Donnell voting  
in favor and Legislator Luján abstaining.

Ms. Tautel moved request to accept and appropriate New York State Department Office of Mental Health (OMH) funds awarded for the Orange County Mental Health Connections Project targeting the City of Middletown and the Town of Wallkill with support to additional Courts throughout the County as available, \$225,000.00, seconded by Mr. Amo.

Ms. Miller explained that they are in the process of scheduling meetings with the judges in the City of Middletown and Town of Wallkill to begin planning for the Court Connections Project.

Motion carried 6-1 with Legislators  
Amo, Anagnostakis, Sutherland,  
Tautel, Tuohy and O'Donnell voting  
in favor and Legislator Luján abstaining.

Mr. Tuohy moved request to accept and appropriate \$60,000.00 for 2019 in NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services funds to implement jail-based substance use disorder and treatment and transition services, seconded by Ms. Tautel.

Ms. Miller explained that the Commissioners of Mental Hygiene advocacy body in Albany worked closely with the Sheriffs Association and advocated strongly for additional funds to support services in the jail. Currently all services in the jail are funded through county taxation; they had requested \$13.9 million, submitted an impressive white paper and received one-time funding of \$3.9 million which has been continued for a second year. Initially, Orange County was not included in the distribution but fortunately they have changed how the funds would be distributed with the county receiving \$60,000.00. They would be hiring a part-time 30 hour a week employee to complement

their current staff in the jail by focusing on substance abuse, engaging individuals in substance abuse treatment and integration back into the community at release.

Mr. Luján asked if the employee would be working with the individual upon entering the jail or prior to release. Ms. Miller replied that the jail has between 600 and 660 inmates at any given time and realistically the percentage for substance abuse is extremely high. They currently have a jail operated clinic that is county staffed with a director, 6 case managers, 24/7 doctors to prescribe psychotropics as needed, and this would complement that staff by doing assessment and case planning. It is difficult to reach everyone in the jail, but it would start as a voluntary program with some possibly being candidates for the Vivitrol project.

Mr. Tuohy asked if the \$60,000.00 could be dispersed to the county personnel that are currently doing similar work as opposed to adding an outside person. Ms. Miller replied that terms of the funding were specific that they could not supplant funds and anything that was already funded had to continue to be funded as is. Initially they did not want counties to have the funds or do the hiring and wanted them to contract with providers; however, they were able to push back, and this person will be reporting to their director even though they were hired contractually.

Mr. Tuohy asked about the cost projection. Ms. Miller replied that \$50,000.00 would go toward the hourly rate and \$10,000.00 toward administrative and equipment costs.

Motion carried 6-1 with Legislators  
Amo, Anagnostakis, Sutherland,  
Tautel, Tuohy and O'Donnell voting  
in favor and Legislator Luján abstaining.

Dr. Gelman addressed old business stating that Orange County has 250 lab confirmed flu cases.

Mr. O'Donnell asked how that data was compiled. Dr. Gelman replied that it was from New York State.

On the agenda was an update on the Morgue.

Mr. Ericson stated that since August 2013 they have been performing autopsies in the trailer facility behind the Orange County Emergency Services Center with the Emergency Services Center building holding their actual offices. They currently have an RFQ out for a Medical Examiner's Needs Assessment and is due back by February 26, 2019. The overall goal of the needs assessment is to determine the projected needs of the Orange County Medical Examiner's office, type and size of a facility to meet the projected needs, research what would be utilized to prepare a functional use of space analysis, conceptual floorplans, estimated budget and the cost to create a modern and cohesive facility that would serve the Orange County Medical Examiner into the future, projected growth, emerging technology and equipment requirements, development of square footage and projected design and cost estimate of a new facility. They are currently waiting on the bids and accepted into their budget this year was the capital project of approximately \$6 million; however, that is a rough estimate as they do not know how much it would cost for a 7500 square foot facility. They also asked that needs assessment be based on a standalone facility on county property.

They have learned after going through the Medical Examiner's process that it was not a great idea to be a tenant and/or have shared use space as eventually things become comingled and complaints arise. They originally started at the Arden Hill Hospital with offices at Seward Avenue, then Orange Regional Medical Center (ORMC) with offices at the Orange County Emergency Services Center. To be honest the current situation with the trailer behind the Orange County Emergency Services Center and the offices in the building has been the best situation they have had. Being located on that site has been good because it is centrally located and has excellent security. In their opinion, it would be a good site for a standalone facility, but they are waiting on the needs assessment.

Ms. Tautel asked if a copy of the RFQ could be emailed to all legislators. Mr. Ericson replied that it is posted by the Department of General Services, but he would get a copy to the committee.

Ms. Tautel asked if county owned buildings were looked at for a possible lower cost. Mr. Ericson replied that a cost analysis was not done on that; however, from past experience retrofitting costs a great deal and sometimes as much as new building. When looking at building a facility in a current facility the issue of perceived odors arises because they could have the best ventilation and no bodies in the building and people would still smell bodies. At one time they looked into putting the Medical Examiner's facility in the Orange County Emergency Services Center and just the idea was troubling to some. While both Medical Examiners could not be present today, they strongly agree on a standalone facility because they have received no complaints from tenants since being in the trailers. When they were at Orange Regional Medical Center (ORMC) he dealt with complaints daily from the Administration.

Dr. Gelman added that these are nontraditional hours and access to the facility for transport and logistics are very important.

Mr. Ericson added that it was time for a proper and deserving facility for the constituents of the county.

Mr. Touhy agrees that it was time to move forward and to get it done.

Mr. Amo suggested a tour of the morgue be organized as they have many new legislators.

Mr. Ericson agreed that it could be arranged.

Mr. O'Donnell asked that they coordinate a tour for all Legislators.

Ms. DeChiara recommended the tour be conducted in the afternoon due to both doctors' schedules.

Mr. O'Donnell suggested it be held at 1:00 p.m. before next month's committee meeting.

Mr. Luján commented that he fully supports this as the residents of Orange County deserve a dignified place.

Mr. Luján asked about recent measles cases. Dr. Gelman replied that they have ten confirmed cases in Orange County with two suspected cases, 135 for Rockland County and 72 for New York City. In addition, school exclusions for Rockland County were at 3,600 students.

On the agenda was the monthly report on Valley View.

Ms. Strecker addressed unfinished business from the meeting on January 22, 2019. The five year overtime analysis was forwarded to the committee and the exceeded budget for serial bonds was because the bonding for 2017 was issued late and not submitted with their budget.

Mr. LaDue explained that they recently met with have met with Stacy Butler, Assistant County Attorney, who is assisting with some of their larger project bids which includes the combined heat and power, Couser building HVAC, boiler room upgrade and the installation of the water carbon filtration system. In March they will be presenting legislative requests for some of their 2019 projects including refurbishing of employee areas, wheelchairs, cushions and accessories, additional money for the HVAC project and sewer project.

Ms. Strecker explained that county taxation was at zero, IGT funding was at \$8 million and other revenues at \$46.8 million. On the personal service side, personal services were at \$21 million, overtime was at \$1.4 million, contractual was at \$13 million and employee benefits at \$17 million.

Ms. Strecker explained that for January 2019, no new IGT funding has been received, and appropriated surplus at \$1.5 million and \$3.6 million in additional revenues that will be posted to the February general ledger. On the personal service side, personal services were at \$1.7 million, \$3.9 million has been encumbered for contractual, employee benefits at \$1.2 million and debt at \$7,000.00.

Mr. O'Donnell asked if their contractual budget of \$14.8 million would be enough for the year after using \$3.9 million in the first month. Ms. Strecker replied yes.

Ms. Grogan added that funds are encumbered before a contract is signed.

Ms. Tautel asked when they received the IGT payment and when do they anticipate the next payment. Ms. Strecker replied that they received notice that there could possibly be another payment released in March. They received two IGT payment in 2018, \$2.3 million for the period of January 1, 2018 through March 31, 2018 and \$5.5 million for April 1, 2018 through September 30, 2018. If the payment comes through in March a portion of the income would be booked to 2018 and it would be for October, November and December 2018.

Ms. Strecker added that the occupancy rate for January was at 92.56%. Medicaid utilization was at 50.58%, medicaid (HMO) at 16.58%, medicare at 17.01%, private pay at 14.39% and today's occupancy was at 92.50%.

Mr. Tuohy asked about the increase to private pay. Ms. Strecker replied that it could be a higher private pay population and/or more people with pending medicaid approvals.

Mr. LaDue added that private pay fluctuates because they bill the pending medicaid residents at the private pay rate.

Mr. Tuohy asked if adjustments are made after approval. Mr. LaDue replied yes.

On the agenda was a discussion on state funding.

Mr. LaDue addressed Governor Cuomo's proposed budget that includes a \$246 million cut in Medicaid Case Mix funding and its possible impact to Valley View.

Ms. Tautel asked if they had spoken to the families of residents. Mr. LaDue replied not directly, but it was sent to the Valley View Family Council's email. However, he would be addressing it with them at their next meeting.

Mr. Amo asked if LeadingAge knew what the governor's rationale was behind this proposal. Mr. LaDue replied that medicaid is a huge portion of the budget and an area that he is looking to cut.

Ms. Strecker added that they conducted a random case mix in April and the actual picture date, and they determined a disparity between the two numbers. Normally as they move toward the picture date they take more time and effort in recording information that goes into case mix, however, they do not know. They may do a blend as facilities may not be able to afford a \$4 million hit.

Mr. Amo asked if there was any data that indicates that the acuity of admissions has gone down. Mr. LaDue replied no, they had informed the committee several months ago that New York State would be changing the formula on the case mix index which was just sprung on all facilities. Typically, their case mix index was set for July and January; however, they changed the rules without prior knowledge and they were unprepared resulting in a lower case mix than normal. They have changed the way they do things and now treat every day as a CMI capture period as opposed to two two-month periods.

Mr. Amo commented that when the Affordable Care Act was passed there were significant changes to the medicare process with New York State using DSRIP to pay half.

Mr. Amo commented that there are huge penalties for hospital readmissions but if they are now keeping people longer to ensure that when they are discharged, they are ready. Mr. LaDue replied that while they are penalized for readmissions their reimbursement system is still setup to discharge earlier which means sicker, which means their acuity should not change and it has not changed. They are receiving a certain amount of money regardless of how long that person is in the hospital.

Ms. Tautel asked if Mr. LaDue wrote a letter to the state representatives as the Commissioner of Valley View. Mr. LaDue replied yes, all those on the email list.

Mr. O'Donnell asked for the timeline on these proposed changes. Mr. LaDue replied that it would be hashed out before April 1, 2019.

Mr. O'Donnell asked if nothing changes would they have a \$4 million shortfall in their budget. Mr. LaDue replied yes.

Mr. O'Donnell asked if there was a way to make up that shortfall. Mr. LaDue replied that their budget is already set.

On another note, Chairman Brescia asked if phone calls to Pine Bush were long distance. Mr. LaDue replied yes, and it would be something that needs to be addressed with Frontier Communications. He understands that only a small area here in Goshen is considered local calls and after that it is local long distance.

Mr. O'Donnell asked how Frontier Communications received the contract for phone service. Mr. LaDue replied that it is not a contract, they are the local provider.

Mr. Tuohy suggested they contact Spectrum for a quote. Mr. LaDue replied that they would.

The meeting adjourned at 4:56 p.m.